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BOSTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1959.

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To : The Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses
of the Borough of Boston,

being the Boston Port Health Authority, as constituted
by the Boston Port Orders, 1933 and 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the Health Administration of the Port of Boston during the year ending 31st December, 1959.

It will be seen that the Port has had a satisfactory trading year in that the number of ships entering Boston has again increased. The number of foreign ships rose to 1,049, an increase of 124 over the previous year whilst the coastwise shipping rose to 296, an increase of 76, giving a total of 1,345, an increase of 200 compared with 1958. The total tonnage rose to 288,370 as compared with 233,578 in the previous year.

The character of the trade of the Port varied little from previous years and there was little change in the principal foreign ports from which ships arrived. The arrival of a ship from Brazil, however, did create a fair amount of local interest.

There was a complete absence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year. It was necessary for one ship to be boarded on arrival due to a case of sickness, but the illness was found to be Influenza. The patient was treated on board ship in port by the Company doctor.

Two Black Rats were found on a ship arriving from Alexandria. They were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for examination but they were found not to be infected with plague.

Owing to shortage of staff during the year, much of the routine work was necessarily curtailed but this was unavoidable under the circumstances.

Finally, I should like to express my thanks to the Staff of the Public Health Department and all others concerned for their co-operation and assistance throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. HIRD.

Port Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
8 Bridge Street,
BOSTON, Lincs.

FEBRUARY, 1960.

SECTION I - Staff.

TABLE A.

Name of officer.	Nature of appointment.	Date of appointment.	Qualifications.	Any other appointments held.
HIRD, G.	Port Medical Officer of Health.	1-5-58.	M.B.,Ch.B., D.P.H.,	Assistant C.M.O. - Holland County Council. Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Boston. Medical Officer of Health - Boston R.D.C.
CHAMBERLAIN, G.E.	Chief Port Health Inspector.	15-10-45.	Cert S.I.B., Cert Meat & Food Inspector.	Chief Public Health Inspector - Borough of Boston.
MILSOM,D.H.	Deputy Chief Port Health Inspector.	1-10-59.	Cert S.I.B., Cert Meat & Food Inspector.	Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector - Borough of Boston.
SISSONS,R.	Additional Port Health Inspector.	19-11-59.	Cert P.H.I.E.B., Dip.R.I.P.H.H.	Additional Public Health Inspector - Borough of Boston.

Address and telephone number of the Medical Officer of Health.) Public Health Department, 8 Bridge Street, BOSTON, Lincs. BOSTON 4601 (six lines).

SECTION II - Amount of shipping entering the district during the year.

TABLE B.

Ships from.	Number.	Tonnage.	Number Inspected.		Number of ships reported as having, or having had during the voyage, infectious disease on board.
			By the Medical Officer of Health.	By the Port Health Inspectors.	
Foreign Ports.	1,049.	216,234.	2.	33.	Nil.
Coastwise.	296.	72,136.	Nil.	1.	Nil.
Total.	1,345.	288,370.	2.	34.	Nil.

SECTION III - Character of shipping and trade during the year.

TABLE C.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ...	Number of passengers INWARDS : 316. Number of passengers OUTWARDS : 202.
CARGO TRAFFIC ...	Principal IMPORTS : Aluminium Ingots, Battens and Boards, Bulbs, Clay, Deals, Feeding Stuffs, Fertilizers, Flour, Fruit and Vegetables, Glucose, Grain, Paper, Perlite, Petroleum, Potatoes, Salt, Sleepers, Starch, Steel Bars Etc., Telegraph Poles and General. Principal EXPORTS : Cattle, Coal, Grain, Pig Iron, Sand, Steel and General.
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which ships arrive ...	BELGIUM : Antwerp, Breskens, Bruges, Brussels, Ghent, Hansweert, Ostend, Rieme, Zeebrugges. BRAZIL : Sao Francisco Do Sul. CYPRUS : Famagusta. DENMARK : Aalborg, Esbjerg, Fredericia, Horsens, Randers. FINLAND : Hamina, Haukipudas, Kasko, Kemi, Kotka, Mantyluoto, Pateniemi, Raumo, Vasa, Walkom. FRANCE : Boulogne, Dunkirk, Rouen. GERMANY : Bremen, Hamburg, Wismar. HOLLAND : Colynsplaat, Harlingen, Koog Aan De Zaan, Maassluis, Terneuzen, Ymuiden, Zierikzee. ITALY : Leghorn, Spezia. NORWAY : Aaheim, Arendal, Porsgrunn, Tyssedal. POLAND : Danzig, Stettin. RUSSIA : Archangel, Kem, Leningrad, Onega, Petchora, Vasa. SARDINIA : Cagliari. SPAIN : Almeria, Barcelona, Carthagena. SWEDEN : Burea, Gefle, Gothenburg, Halmstad, Karlshamn, Lugnvik, Norrkoping, Ronneby, Stugsund, Vesteras.

SECTION IV - Inland barge traffic.

No inland barge traffic entered the port during the year.

SECTION V - Water supply.

1. Source of supply for

   (a) The District.

   (b) Shipping.

- NO CHANGE -

2. Reports of tests for contamination.

- NO CHANGE -

3. Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes.

- NO CHANGE -

4. Number and sanitary condition of water boats, and powers of control by the Authority.

There are no water boats in the Port.

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

1. List of Infected Areas. (Regulation 6).
Arrangements for the preparation and amendment of the list, the form of the list, the persons to whom it is supplied, and the procedure for supplying it to those persons.

- NO CHANGE -

2. Radio Messages.

(a) Arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships to enter the district. (Regulation 13).

(b) Arrangements for receiving messages by radio from ships and for acting thereon. (Regulation 14 (1) (a) and (2).)

Boston is not a radio transmitting or receiving port.

- NO CHANGE -

3. Notifications otherwise than by radio. (Regulation 14 (1) (b).)
Arrangements for receiving notifications otherwise than by radio and for acting thereon.

- NO CHANGE -

4. Mooring Stations. (Regulations 22 to 30).
Situation of stations, and any standing directions issued under these Regulations.

- NO CHANGE -

5. Arrangements for :-

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox - see Section VII).

- NO CHANGE -

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts :

- NO CHANGE -

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles :

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION VII - Smallpox.

1. Name of Isolation Hospital to which smallpox cases are sent from the district.

All cases of smallpox are sent to the Laceby Smallpox Hospital.

2. Arrangements for transport of such cases to that hospital by ambulance, giving the name of the Authority responsible for the ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

Arrangements have been made with the Medical Officer of Health for Grimsby that in all cases of smallpox the Isolation Hospital, Laceby, will provide ambulances and crews consisting of specially trained and vaccinated teams of attendants.

3. Names of smallpox consultants available.

Dr. J.H.C.Clarke, County Offices, Sleaford.	Dr. G. Nisbet, Bridge Street, Peterborough.	Dr. J. Glen, Springfield Hospital, Scarthoe, Grimsby.

4. Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.

Where laboratory diagnosis is required specimens are sent to Professor A.W. Downie, Bacteriology Department, Medical School, Ashton Street, Liverpool, 3.

SECTION VIII - Venereal Disease.

Information as to the location, days and hours of the available facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease among merchant seamen under international arrangements, including in-patient treatment and the steps taken to make these facilities known to seamen.

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION IX - Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

TABLE D.

Category.	Disease.	Number of cases during the year.		Number of ships concerned.
		Passengers.	Crew.	
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Cases landed from other ships.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

No cases of Smallpox, Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Typhus or Relapsing Fever occurred during the year 1959.

SECTION X - Observations on the occurrence of malaria in ships.

There have been no cases of Malaria occurring on any arriving ship.

SECTION XI - Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

No "infected" or "suspected" ships entered the port during 1959.

SECTION XII - Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports.

1. Procedure for inspection of ships for rats.

All ships from "infected ports" are searched for evidence of rats (excreta, gnawings, runs, etc.) and traps are set for confirmation of findings. Similar precautions are taken if the crew or stevedores report indications of rats on other ships or if routine inspections reveal suspicious circumstances.

2. Arrangements for the bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents, with special reference to rodent plague, including the number of rodents sent for examination during the year.

Bodies of rodents are sent for routine examination for plague to the Public Health Laboratory, St. Anne's Road, Lincoln.

During the year two bodies were examined and reported as free from plague.

3. Arrangements in the District for deratting ships, the methods used, and, if done by a commercial contractor, the name of the contractor.

Boston is not a designated approved port and there are no standing arrangements for the deratting of ships.

4. Progress in the rat-proofing of ships.

Any work found to be necessary is carried out under the supervision of the Port Health Inspector.

TABLE E.

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

Category.	Number.
Black Rats	2.
Brown Rats	Nil.
Species not known	Nil.
Sent for examination	2.
Infected with plague	Nil.

TABLE F.

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports.

Boston is not a designated approved port and therefore no Deratting Certificates have been issued.

Net tonnage.	No. of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued.
Ships up to 300 tons.	19.
Ships from 301 - 1,000 tons.	5.
Ships from 1,001 - 3,000 tons.	Nil.
Total.	24.

SECTION XIII - Inspection of ships for nuisances.

TABLE G.

Inspections and Notices.

Nature and number of inspections : - General inspections : 34.

Nature and number of Nuisances found		Notices served		Result of serving Notices
		Statutory Notices	Other Notices	
Defects of Original Construction.	Nil	Nil	Nil	-
Structural Defects through wear and tear.	1	Nil	1	1 sailed before completion.
Dirt, Vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.	3	Nil	3	3 complied with.
Total	4	Nil	4	3 complied with.

SECTION XIV - Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations. 1934 and 1948.

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens.

- NO CHANGE -

SECTION XVI - Miscellaneous.

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious diseases.

- NO CHANGE -